

Stepping Stones

THE DUNTROON QUARRY EXPANSION NEWSLETTER



Fall 2007

Message From Walker Aggregates Vice-President/General Manager

The second round of reports on our Duntroon Quarry expansion has been completed and sent to all of the commenting agencies for their review.

These agencies - including the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Niagara Escarpment Commission, the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment had asked for some further information after reviewing our first set of reports.

The further information related to both our proposal, and the cumulative impacts that our quarry and a more recent application for a quarry adjacent to our property would have. This refers to the application for a MAQ Highland Quarry.

Highlights of the conclusions of the further study are included in a story on the opposite page of this newsletter.

Included in the second round of reports is an analysis of economic benefits of the Duntroon Quarry expansion (see story below).

I was pleased to be asked to provide comments for an article entitled "Battles over Bedrock" in the fall issue of On the Bay magazine.

The article highlighted the gravel pits and quarries operating and being planned along and

near the Niagara Escarpment, and particularly in southern Georgian Bay.

In my opinion, the story fairly presented the legitimate concerns of residents living near these pits and quarries, as well as the need to provide building materials such as aggregates for construction projects and roads.

I was also pleased to allow a photographer from the magazine to visit our quarry to take pictures for the article.

In my view, it is only with dialogue and a willingness to discuss and address issues that neighbours and businesses such as quarries co-exist in a way that acknowledges and respects all interests.

For more information about Walker Aggregates proposed Duntroon Quarry expansion please call me at 705-445-2300, extension 224, or in Niagara at 905-227-4142.

Ken Lucyshyn
Vice-President and General Manager

Expanded Quarry to Offer Significant Economic Benefits

An expanded Duntroon Quarry is expected to generate substantial economic benefits for the Township of Clearview, Simcoe County, and the Province of Ontario, and also generate local employment opportunities and spin-off spending to local businesses. This is according to a report developed by a Toronto consulting firm, Altus Clayton.

The report, completed in October, notes that the economic benefits include:

- 37 permanent full-time jobs at the quarry and 45 trucking jobs.

- Property taxes to the Township of Clearview of about \$12,400 per year (about \$310,000 over the 25-year life of the quarry).
- Aggregate license fee of \$108 per year to the Township of Clearview.
- Property taxes to Simcoe County of about \$7,800 per year.
- Aggregate license fee of \$27,000 per year to Simcoe County.
- About \$86,000 in personal income taxes during site preparation and about \$234,000 per year relating to permanent jobs to the

- Province of Ontario, plus corporate income taxes.
- Aggregate license fee of \$63,000 per year to the Province of Ontario.
- About \$1.2 million per year in PST to the provincial government relating to the purchase of aggregate from the quarry, plus about \$48,000 during the site preparation stage and about \$180,000 per year during the operation of the quarry related to materials and supplies purchased by the quarry.
- About \$27,400 in education taxes per year.

- Local businesses will benefit from the estimated \$4.4 million in annual wages earned by quarry workers and truckers, as well as the estimated \$1.7 million earned by workers during the site preparation stage.
- A portion of the estimated \$2.25 million spent annually by the quarry on operating supplies and services will be done locally.

The site preparation, quarry and trucking jobs will mostly be filled by residents of Simcoe County.

Highlights of Additional Study on the Duntroon Quarry Expansion

In a letter to the Ministry of Natural Resources, Township of Clearview and Niagara Escarpment Commission, Walker Aggregates' planning consultant, Brent Clarkson, from the MHBC Regional and Urban Planning & Resource Development firm, outlined key conclusions from the additional studies and research done on the proposed Duntroon Quarry expansion.

These include:

- In order to provide an additional measure of protection, the proposed extraction setback from adjacent wetlands should be increased from 10 metres to 30 metres.
- In terms of natural heritage, water resources, agriculture, operational noise, blasting, traffic, archaeology and built heritage resource and visual impact, and taking into account proposed mitigation, the cumulative impacts of the proposed Walker Aggregates Duntroon Quarry expansion and the proposed MAQ Highland Quarry are acceptable.
- If both the Duntroon Quarry expansion and the MAQ Highland Quarry are approved and proceed, there is no predicted impact on nearby domestic wells.
- Proposed quarrying will not negatively impact the springs on the Niagara Escarpment. If impacts are greater than predicted, they can be mitigated.
- Proposed quarrying will not negatively impact fish habitat in the Beaver River.
- No significant wetlands will be directly affected by the proposed quarry expansion and indirect impacts will be mitigated...and,

as a result of the Duntroon Quarry expansion, there will be a net increase in total wetland area which will be achieved through quarry rehabilitation.

- Surface and groundwater inputs to important ecological resources can be maintained within the limits of natural variability, by managing quarry discharge water.
- The reforestation proposed to mitigate the removal of trees within the proposed extraction area will increase overall woodland size, provide more interior forest habitat and improve existing, and add new, natural system linkages.
- It has been demonstrated that the proposed extraction area is located in excess of 400 metres from the brow of the Niagara Escarpment, which exceeds the regulatory requirement of a minimum 200 metre separation.

The letter also noted that Walker was withdrawing its request to allow a concrete ready mix plant within the Duntroon Quarry expansion lands.

In conclusion, Brent Clarkson noted that "The proposal by Walker to expand the Duntroon Quarry represents responsible resource management and good planning."

A copy of the letter is available to any member of the public who wishes one by contacting Walker's Duntroon Quarry office or by viewing the letter on the Walker Industries' web site.

Stepping Stones is published quarterly. We welcome your questions and comments. Please contact Rosemary Ackermann at Walker Aggregates at 705-445-2300, ext. 223. The Duntroon Quarry is operated by Walker Aggregates Inc., a division of Walker Industries. (www.walkerind.com).